



SHELLING GREEN PEAS

I sing you a ditty of a damsel so pretty,
Who liv'd from the city some seventeen miles
Her name is Maria her worthy old sire,
Was clerk & town crier-his name wa John
Styles,

With lips like the cherry a smile too so merry
I thought her the very one suited to please
And when I first met her & tried hard to
get her, [peas
For worse for better she was shelling green

Under the trees a bowl on her knees,
Maria sat silently shelling green peas,
I'd long lov'd her dearly truly sincerely,
At length I thought really I'd settle in life
Although aged fifty I'd been very thrifty
And thought it was high time to be taking
a wife,

With bosom on fire in search of Maria
Through lanes of wild-briar o'er shadow'd
by trees,

I sto'd to the spot where outside her cot
there, [peas,

She was sitting so patting shelling green
I stept'd up unto her commencing to woo
her,

I said that no truer fond heart could be found
Than mine if she'd take me some morning
& make me

The happiest mortal for twenty miles round
I said our life might be one round of delight
Like the littlebirds singing upon the green
trees,

To a whisper then dropping my voice with
out stopping, [the peas,

The question was popping as she pop'd
No answer she made & I was much afraid;
That this beautiful maid had not heard all I
said,

At her feet kneeling I tried to be stealing
A kiss when came feeling her hand on my
head, [rage,

Do you think I'd engage she cried out in a
With a man twice my age so clear out if
you please,

In a terrible passion at me she sent crashing
On my head smashing the bowl of guenp as
By way of addend she said sir remember
That may & d-c-m-b-er can never unite,
Your leave sir be taking my neck nearly
breaking,

I made my escape in a terrible fright
I never will marry but singe will carry.
Tho' freinds & acquaintance do nothing but
teare,

Whenever they meet me in this style they
greet me, [peas,

'Old boy what's the price of lamb & green
Yes how they tease whenever the please
By shouting out after me lamb & green peas